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APPOINTMENT OF JOHN A. McCONE to head the Central Intelligence Agency is an excellent choice. On his record, he should indeed fulfill President Kennedy's description of him as the ideal man for the job.

Mr. McCone, a Republican, served with distinction as Air Force undersecretary in the Truman Democratic Administration during the Korean War, and as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission in the Eisenhower Administration. He is known as a "quiet-spoken dynamo."

PRESIDENT KENNEDY called retiring CIA Clief Allen Dulles a "courageous" and "selfless" public servant. It is also good news that Mr. Dulles agreed to continue in an advisory role on intelli-Zence affairs.